

West Virginia Residents Urged to Double-Check Their Coverage During Get Smart About Insurance Week

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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CHARLESTON, WV – West Virginia Insurance Commissioner, Jane L. Cline, is encouraging consumers to get smart about their insurance coverage during the third annual Get Smart About Insurance Week, January 19-23, 2004.

Although most Americans feel they have about the right amount of insurance coverage (72%), only 33 percent say they understand the details of the coverage “very well”, according to a recent survey by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

During this special week, West Virginia residents are urged to contact the West Virginia Insurance Commission at 1-888-TRY-WVIC to request a free brochure and get information on what they need and should expect from insurance coverage.

“Get Smart About Insurance Week isn’t about selling or canceling policies,” Cline said. “It’s about making sure your family is properly covered. We believe that the West Virginia Insurance Commission is your best resource for insurance-related questions and concerns.”

“As demonstrated by the survey results,” Cline adds, “last year’s Get Smart About Insurance Week raised awareness among consumers and helped connect them with their agents and state insurance departments for information about their coverage.” The 33 percent of Americans who understand their policy very well represents a rise of six percentage points from last year’s survey.

There are several steps consumers can take to get smart about their insurance coverage.

“We recommend consumers know what kind of coverage they need before they shop around,” Cline says. “It’s up to consumers to watch out for their own best interests.”

Other recommendations include:

- ❑ Check with the WVIC for free tips and up-to-date information prior to purchasing health, life, auto, home or other insurance coverage
- ❑ Schedule a routine “check-up” with your insurance providers at least once a year
- ❑ Inquire about the cost benefit of opting for higher deductibles
- ❑ Ask specifically about discounts for good driving records, good health, good grades, special education or training
- ❑ Shop around for identical products and services. Not every company charges the same rate
- ❑ Remember an insurance policy is a legal document. Read it carefully.

“The West Virginia Insurance Commission is a terrific source of unbiased information,” Cline adds. “You may not have the coverage you need. You may have more than you need. You may feel you’ve been treated unfairly when shopping for insurance, or you may just want help understanding how different kinds of insurance work. No matter what your situation is, we are here to help you get smart about insurance.”